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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: human resources development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 57 (see A/64/424, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 35th and 40th meetings, on 17 November and 4 December 2009. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.35 and 40).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.34 and A/C.2/64/L.51

2. At the 35th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/64/L.34), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999, 56/189 of 21 December 2001, 58/207 of 23 December 2003, 60/211 of 22 December 2005 and 62/207 of 19 December 2007,
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> "*Stressing* that human resources development is key to the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to expand opportunities for people, in particular for the most vulnerable groups of the population,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in four parts, under the symbol A/64/424 and Add.1-3.

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"*Stressing also* that health and education are at the core of human resources development,

"*Recognizing* that, despite considerable efforts made over the years, many countries continue to face formidable challenges in developing a sufficient pool of human resources that match national economic and social needs, and that the formulation and implementation of effective human resources strategies often require resources and capacities not always available in developing countries,

"*Recognizing also* that the adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis will further diminish the ability of many countries, especially developing countries, to cope with and address human resources development challenges and to formulate and implement effective strategies for poverty eradication and sustainable development,

"*Stressing* that human resources development is even more critical in the current global financial and economic crisis in order to help countries mitigate the worst effects of the global financial crisis and set the basis for future and sustainable recovery,

"*Stressing also* that brain drain continues to be a severe problem in many developing and transitioning countries, threatening achievements in the area of human resources development,

"*Reaffirming* that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

"*Recognizing* that education is the key to promoting the development of human potential, equality and understanding among peoples, as well as to sustaining economic growth and eradicating poverty, and recognizing also that, to achieve those ends, it is essential that quality education is available to all, including indigenous peoples, girls and women, rural inhabitants and persons with disabilities,

"*Stressing* that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and the need for greater support from the international community for the national efforts of developing countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Stresses* the need for Member States to prioritize and integrate human resources development into national development strategies to eradicate poverty in order to ensure that human resources development implications are taken into account by all national development stakeholders;

"3. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement comprehensive human resources development strategies premised on national development objectives that ensure a strong link among education, training and

employment, help to maintain a productive and competitive workforce and are responsive to the needs of the economy;

"4. *Also encourages* Member States to continue to strengthen social protection systems and to adopt policies that strengthen existing safety nets, protect vulnerable groups and boost domestic consumption and production to cushion the effect of the crisis and to prevent people from falling into poverty and, in this regard, expresses concern that many developing countries lack the necessary financial resources to implement such countercyclical measures and stresses the need for urgent international support for the same;

"5. *Emphasizes* the need to adopt cross-sectoral approaches and mechanisms to identify human resources development needs in the medium and long term for all sectors of the economy and to formulate and implement policies and programmes to address those needs;

"6. *Calls upon* the international community to assist developing countries in the implementation of national human resources development strategies, in particular through the provision of financial resources, capacity-building, technical assistance and transfer of technology;

"7. *Also calls upon* the international community, including the entities of the United Nations system, to support the efforts of developing countries to address the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases on their human resources, in particular in Africa;

"8. *Urges* the further strengthening of international cooperation in the area of health, inter alia, through the exchange of best practices in the areas of health systems strengthening, access to medicines, training of health personnel, transfer of technology and production of affordable, safe, effective and good-quality medicine and, in this regard, stresses that international cooperation and assistance, in particular external funding, need to become more predictable and should be better aligned with national priorities and channelled to recipient countries in ways that strengthen national health systems;

"9. *Underscores* the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, and encourages efforts by Member States and the international community to promote a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, in particular by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration;

"10. *Stresses* the important contributions of the public and private sectors, respectively, in meeting national training and education needs to support the efficient functioning of enterprises and matching the needs of a rapidly changing economy, and encourages the integration of those contributions, including through the greater use of public-private partnerships and incentives;

"11. *Calls for* actions at the national, regional and international levels that will give high priority to improving and expanding literacy, as well as

science proficiency, and provide tertiary, technical-vocational and adult education;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report that reviews lessons learned from the global financial and economic crisis and provides an assessment of the requirements for human resources development to help countries overcome the negative effects of the crisis and set the basis for recovery and progress towards a more sustainable path of development;

"13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled 'Eradication of poverty and other development issues', the sub-item entitled 'Human resources development'."

3. At its 40th meeting, on 4 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/64/L.51), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Dragan Mićić (Serbia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.34.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.51 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Dragan Mićić (Serbia), made a statement, in the course of which he orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.51 (see A/C.2/64/SR.40).

6. Also at the 40th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.51, as orally corrected (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.51, draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.34 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Human resources development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999, 56/189 of 21 December 2001, 58/207 of 23 December 2003, 60/211 of 22 December 2005 and 62/207 of 19 December 2007,

Stressing that human resources development is key to the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to expand opportunities for people, in particular for the most vulnerable groups of the population,

Stressing also that health and education are at the core of human resources development,

Welcoming the considerable efforts made over the years, yet recognizing that many countries continue to face formidable challenges in developing a sufficient pool of human resources capable of meeting national economic and social needs and that the formulation and implementation of effective human resources strategies often require resources and capacities not always available in developing countries,

Recognizing that the adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis will further diminish the ability of many countries, especially developing countries, to cope with and address human resources development challenges and to formulate and implement effective strategies for poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Stressing that human resources development is even more critical in the current global financial and economic crisis in order to mitigate the worst effects of the crisis and set the basis for future and sustainable recovery,

Acknowledging the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transition and destination, recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community, and stressing that brain drain continues to be a severe problem in many developing and transitioning countries, undermining efforts in the area of human resources development,

Reaffirming that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

Recognizing that education is the key to promoting the development of human potential, equality and understanding among peoples, as well as to sustaining

economic growth and eradicating poverty, and recognizing also that, to achieve those ends, it is essential that quality education is available to all, including indigenous peoples, girls and women, rural inhabitants and persons with disabilities,

Stressing that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and the need for greater support from the international community for the national efforts of developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Stresses* the need for Member States to emphasize and integrate human resources development into national development strategies, including national development policies and strategies to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in order to ensure that human resources development implications are taken into account by all national development stakeholders;

3. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement comprehensive human resources development strategies premised on national development objectives that ensure a strong link among education, training and employment, help to maintain a productive and competitive workforce and are responsive to the needs of the economy;

4. *Stresses* that investment in human resources development should be an integral part of national development policies and strategies, and, in this regard, calls for the adoption of policies to facilitate investment focused on infrastructure and capacity development, including, inter alia, education, health and science and technology, including information and communications technology;

5. *Encourages* Member States to continue to strengthen social protection systems and to adopt policies that strengthen existing safety nets, protect vulnerable groups and boost domestic consumption and production especially to cushion the effect of the crisis and prevent people from falling into poverty, and acknowledges, in this regard, that many developing countries lack the necessary financial resources and capacity to implement such countercyclical measures, and recognizes the need for continued mobilization of additional domestic and international resources, as appropriate;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for Member States to adopt cross-sectoral approaches and mechanisms to identify human resources development needs in the medium and long term for all sectors of the economy and to formulate and implement policies and programmes to address those needs;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to assist developing countries in the implementation of national human resources development strategies, and encourages the international community to provide financial resources, capacity-building, technical assistance and transfer of technology, as appropriate and on mutually agreed terms;

8. *Calls upon* the international community, including the entities of the United Nations system, to support the efforts of developing countries to address the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases on their human resources, in particular in Africa;

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[1] A/64/329.

9. *Stresses* that sustainable development is dependent, inter alia, on healthy human resources, calls on Member States to continue their efforts to strengthen national health systems, urges the further strengthening of international cooperation in the area of health, inter alia, through the exchange of best practices in the areas of health systems strengthening, access to medicines, training of health personnel, transfer of technology and production of affordable, safe, effective and good-quality medicine, and in this regard stresses that international cooperation and assistance, in particular external funding, need to become more predictable and to be better aligned with national priorities and channelled to recipient countries in ways that strengthen national health systems;

10. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to promote a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, in particular by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration, and, in this regard, reiterates the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education affects the development efforts of developing countries;

11. *Calls for* steps to integrate gender perspectives into human resources development, including through policies, strategies and targeted actions aimed at promoting women's capacities and access to productive activities, and, in this regard, emphasizes the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of such policies, strategies and actions;

12. *Stresses* the important contributions of the public and private sectors, respectively, in meeting national training and education needs to support the efficient functioning of enterprises and matching the needs of a rapidly changing economy, and encourages the integration of those contributions, including through the greater use of public-private partnerships and incentives;

13. *Calls for* actions at the national, regional and international levels that will give high priority to improving and expanding literacy, as well as science proficiency, including by providing tertiary, technical-vocational and adult education, and stresses the need to ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report that reviews lessons learned from the global financial and economic crisis on the requirements for human resources development to help countries prevent and overcome the negative effects of crises and progress towards a more sustainable path of development;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".